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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/572,565
Filing Date: March 17, 2006
Applicant: Kazushi TORII et al.
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Title: WATER ABSORBENT AND PRODUCING METHOD OF
THE SAME
Attorney Docket: 12480-000166/US

Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

September 12, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information submitted for consideration by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed, other than U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications unless required by the Office; (iii) for each cited pending unpublished U.S. application listed below in Section IV, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of the application which caused it to be listed including any claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form PTO-1449 or on the copies of Form PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. ☒ Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. ☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☒ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☐ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:

2. ☒ Partial English translations and Abstracts are provided for: JP03-179008, JP03-12470,

English Language Abstracts are provided for: JP10-147724, JP02-255804, JP02-300210, JP09-077832, WO99-55767, and JP64-056707.

3. ☒ Other: We attach hereto Japanese Publication Nos. 02-300210 and 09-077832, which correspond to U.S. Patent No. 5,185,413, 5,801,238, respectively.

We also attach Japanese Publication Nos. 2002-513043 and 2002-513059 which corresponds to PCT International Application Nos. WO99/55393 and WO99/55767, respectively.

We attach hereto PCT International Application No. WO00/53644 which corresponds to U.S. Publication No. 2003/0207997.

Submission of the English language equivalent is deemed to satisfy the requirement for a concise explanation of relevancy.

C. ☐ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☐ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. ☒ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

☐ before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

☐ after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

- A. ☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or
- B. ☐ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).
- C. ☐ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ☒ No fee is believed to be due in light of the above-noted status or above-provided certification.

B. ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

C. ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

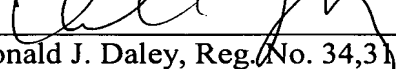
The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By 
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

DJD/amp

Enclosures: ☒ Form PTO-1449(s) (1 sheet(s))
☒ Documents

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 1 of 2	ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
	12480-000166/US	10/572,565
	APPLICANT	
	Kazushi TORII et al.	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	March 17, 2006	Unknown



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
		6,335,406	01/01/2002			
		5,185,413	02/09/1993			
		5,801,238	09/01/1998			
		6,403,700 (B1)	06/11/2002			
		2002/0128618 (A1)	09/12/2002			
		2002/0169252 (A1)	11/14/2002			
		2004/0071966	04/15/2004			
		2002/0165288	11/07/2002			
		4,771,105	09/13/1988			
		6,620,889	09/16/2003			
		6,433,058	08/13/2002			
		2002/0193492	12/19/2002			
		6,448,320	09/10/2002			
		2005/0070071	03/31/2005			
		2005/0221980	10/06/2005			
		6,605,673	08/12/2003			
		2003/0207997	11/06/2003			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes No
		JP03-179008 (A)	08/05/1991	JAPAN		Yes
		JP03-12470 (A)	05/13/1997	JAPAN		Yes
		JP10-147724 (A)	06/02/1998	JAPAN		Abstract
		JP02-255804	10/16/1990	JAPAN		Abstract & Corr.
		JP02-300210	12/12/1990	JAPAN		Abstract & Corr.
		JP09-077832	03/25/1997	JAPAN		Abstract & Corr.

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

ATTORNEY DOCKET No.

12480-000166/US

SERIAL No.

10/572,565

APPLICANT

Kazushi TORII et al.

FILING DATE

March 17, 2006

GROUP

Unknown

		WO99/55393	11/04/1999	WIPO			
		JP2002-513043	05/08/2002	JAPAN		Corr.	
		WO99/55767	11/04/1999	WIPO		Abstract	
		JP2002-513059	05/08/2002	JAPAN		Corr.	
		WO98/48857	11/05/1998	WIPO			
		WO2004/069293 A1	08/19/2004	WIPO			
		WO2004/113452 A1	12/29/2004	WIPO			
		JP64-056707 (A)	03/03/1989	JAPAN		Abstract	
		WO 95/22356	08/24/1995	WIPO			
		WO 01/66056 A1	09/13/2001	WIPO			
		WO2004/069915 A2	08/19/2004	WIPO			
		WO 00/53644	09/14/2000	WIPO		Corr.	
		WO 00/53664	09/14/2000	WIPO		Corr.	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	

Examiner:

Date Considered:

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.